

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A self-propelled vessel for transporting floating objects, comprising separate bow and stern sections adapted to be removably fastened together using mechanical means to form the vessel alone and also to be separated and fastened mechanically to a floating object to form a vessel incorporating said floating object as a midship section to transport same, with said bow section comprising at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to operate same and a crane unit, and said stern section comprising a propulsion system, at least one anchor, a pilot house and controls for said vessel.

2. (Amended) The vessel of claim 1 which is adapted to incorporate as said midship section an assemblage of floating boxes which are mechanically secured together to form said floating object, said boxes comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of concrete, metal, wood, plastic and polymeric composites.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Amended) The vessel of claim ~~3~~ 2 wherein said boxes are

precast concrete boxes.

5. (Amended) The vessel of claim ~~3~~ 2 wherein said boxes are rectangular parallelepipeds.

6. (Amended) A self-propelled vessel for transporting floating objects, comprising separate bow and stern sections adapted to be removably fastened together using mechanical means to form the vessel alone and also to be separated and fastened mechanically to a floating object to form a vessel incorporating said floating object as a midship section to transport same, with said bow section comprising at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to operate same and a crane unit, and said stern section comprising a propulsion system, at least one anchor, a pilot house and controls for said vessel, which vessel is adapted to incorporate as said midship section an assemblage of floating boxes which are mechanically secured together to form said floating object, wherein said boxes are rectangular parallelepipeds comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of concrete, metal, wood, plastic and polymeric composites ~~The vessel of claim 5~~ and wherein said boxes comprise a plurality of boxes having at least two different sizes and sets of proportions which permit said boxes to be conveniently shipped together by

intermodal means and assembled together to form said midship section of said vessel and to form shoreline structures when removed from said vessel.

7.(Amended) A self-propelled vessel for transporting floating objects, comprising separate bow and stern sections adapted to be removably fastened together using mechanical means to form the vessel alone and also to be separated and fastened mechanically to a floating object to form a vessel incorporating said floating object as a midship section to transport same, with said bow section comprising at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to operate same and a crane unit, and said stern section comprising a propulsion system, at least one anchor, a pilot house and controls for said vessel, which vessel is adapted to incorporate as said midship section an assemblage of floating boxes which are mechanically secured together to form said floating object, ~~The vessel of claim 2~~ wherein at least a portion of said boxes have a hexagonal cross section.

8.(Original) The vessel of claim 7 wherein said boxes having a hexagonal cross section comprise at least one material selected from the group consisting of concrete, metal, wood, plastics and polymeric composites.

9.(Original) The vessel of claim 8 wherein said boxes having a hexagonal cross section are formed of precast concrete comprising at least one of metallic and fibrous reinforcements.

10.(Original) The vessel of claim 9 wherein the metallic reinforcement for said precast concrete boxes comprises supports cast into at least a portion of the outer edges of said boxes.

11.(Original) The vessel of claim 10 wherein said supports comprise angle iron stock.

12.(Original) The vessel of claim 9 wherein said boxes having hexagonal cross sections contain metallic reinforcement in at least a portion of the top, bottom and side surfaces thereof.

13.(Original) The vessel of claim 12 wherein said metallic reinforcement comprises materials selected from the group consisting of cables, reinforcing bars and steel beams having various cross sections.

14.(Original) The vessel of claim 1 which is adapted to incorporate as said midship section a floating drydock.

15. (Amended) A self-propelled vessel for transporting floating objects, comprising separate bow and stern sections adapted to be removably fastened together using mechanical means to form the vessel alone and also to be separated and fastened mechanically to a floating object to form a vessel incorporating said floating object as a midship section to transport same, with said bow section comprising at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to operate same and a crane unit, and said stern section comprising a propulsion system, at least one anchor, a pilot house and controls for said vessel, which vessel is adapted to incorporate as said midship section an assemblage of floating boxes which are mechanically secured together to form said floating object, ~~The vessel of claim 4~~ wherein said midship section comprises a plurality of precast concrete boxes having a hexagonal cross section, the majority of which are oriented vertically and interconnected by mechanical means to form a honeycomb structure.

16. (Original) The vessel of claim 15 wherein said mechanical means comprise connectors to interconnect said boxes to each other and tensioning cables to maintain the structure of said midship section.

17. (Original) The vessel of claim 15 wherein said midship

section further comprises precast concrete boxes having a half hexagonal cross section which are interconnected to the outer portions of said midship section to form flush surfaces for said section.

18.(Amended) A self-propelled vessel for transporting floating objects, comprising separate bow and stern sections adapted to be removably fastened together using mechanical means to form the vessel alone and also to be separated and fastened mechanically to a floating object to form a vessel incorporating said floating object as a midship section to transport same, with said bow section comprising at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to operate same and a crane unit, and said stern section comprising a propulsion system, at least one anchor, a pilot house and controls for said vessel. ~~The vessel of claim 1~~ wherein at least a portion of said bow section, said stern section and said midship section comprise pluralities of precast concrete boxes having a hexagonal or half-hexagonal cross section which are assembled in a vertical orientation and interconnected in honeycomb arrays to form the structure of said bow, stern and midship sections.

19.(Original) A vessel comprising separable bow, stern and

midship sections, each of said sections being constructed primarily of a plurality of precast concrete boxes having hexagonal or half-hexagonal cross-sections, said boxes being oriented vertically and interconnected by mechanical means to form said bow, stern and midship sections into an integrated hull structure of said vessel.

20. (Amended) A vessel comprising separable bow, stern and midship sections, each of said sections being constructed primarily of a plurality of precast concrete boxes having hexagonal or half-hexagonal cross-sections, said boxes being oriented vertically and interconnected by mechanical means to form said bow, stern and midship sections into an integrated hull structure of said vessel, ~~The vessel of claim 19~~ which vessel is self-propelled, said bow section having at least one anchor, propulsion means, at least one power supply and control means to handle same and at least one crane unit for handling cargo, with said stern section comprising a pilot house, at least one anchor, at least one propulsion unit and control means for said vessel.

21. (Amended) The vessel of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein a portion of said boxes forming said midship section are adapted to serve as tanks for fuel, water and ballast.

22.(Amended) The vessel of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein said midship section comprises cargo-carrying sections and at least one crane to handle said cargo.

23.(Amended) The vessel of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein a plurality of said boxes in said bow, midship and stern sections are adapted for special purposes comprising operations, habitability and weapons.

24.(Amended) The vessel of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein at least said midship section is large enough and is adapted to serve as a mobile base for at least one type of vehicle selected from the group consisting of large ships, smaller vessels, small craft, submarines, submersibles, hovercraft and aircraft.

25.(New) The vessel of claim 6 which incorporates as its midship section said assemblages of floating boxes.

26.(New) The vessel of claim 7 which incorporates as its midship section said assemblage of floating boxes.

27.(New) The vessel of claim 14 which incorporates a floating drydock as its midship section.